A

LETTER

FROM THE

King of SPAIN

Written to the

POPE of ROME.

30. Sept. 1690.

Licens'd, *September* 29. 1690.

Most Holy Father;

WE have by the Hands of your Nuncio, the Patriarch of the *Indies*, received a Letter, whereby your Holiness recommends to us a General Peace, and especially that of *Italy*: And although we have at the Expence of Provinces, States and Dominions, (which were sufficient to make them great Kingdoms) many times with joy facilitated the publick Quiet; yet we cannot at this time refrain our selves, to tell your Holiness, That seeing the King of *France* doth in no ways keep either Peace or Truce, and having broken his Treaties with all the Princes of *Europe*, they are obliged to joyn themselves for their Natural Security, and thereupon have sought the Necessary Means of War, to secure themselves.

He hath made War upon the Emperour without Cause or Reason, having at the same time raised a Rebellion in *Hungary* against your Prince, and that he might uphold the said Rebellion, hath brought the Turk into Christendom, hath kindled a Fire even in *Austria*, by which the innermost Provinces of the Empire have been set on Flames. Christendom trembled at the formidable Siege of *Vienna*, which City, though manfully defended and preserved by a Miracle, yet the Damages, Devastations, Ruins and Horrors that were the Consequences of it, are unspeakable, and without number. An infinite number of Families carried into Slavery, which lost at once their Souls and Liberty, can sufficiently attest this. The Images have been profaned, and the Rivers died with the Blood of the Innocents. But to

pass over in silence this sorrow, lest the Calamities that befel *Christendom* should raise another sorrow in the tender Heart of your Holiness, because they were caused by a Prince that stiles himself, *Most Christian*.

The unjust War in the *Palatinate*, with such horrible Burnings as was never practised by the most barbarous Nations, must be in fresh Memory with your Holiness, seeing the miserable sighs of the Subjects overwhelmed by the Troops of *France*, are continually in our ears. Your Holiness cannot be ignorant of the violent Spoils committed on the three Electoral Princes of the Empire, *viz.* of *Mentz*, *Cologne*, and *Trier*; and even your Holiness could not deliver from this Tyranny the City and State of *Avignon*, it being an old Patrimony of the Holy See. What hath he left undone, against all respect, both by the Clergy in *France*, and his Ministers at *Rome*, by Threatnings, and other Actions, to shew his little regard to your Holiness; but seeing your Holiness knows this too well, it is needless, but just to remark it.

What Prince, what State, and what Republick is there, which hath not these last Years felt the Ambition of *France*? Let *Genoa* speak, which was almost consum'd by his Bombs; let the Duke of *Savoy* tell it, whom he would at last have trampled upon, as well as all *Italy*, and brought under a vile Yoak of Slavery; and seeing what hath been said, cannot be denied, how can we, Most Holy Father, treat of an Accommodation, before the Power of him be humbled, whom neither Religion, Justice, Faith, nor Oath can restrain: By all which, as well as our Treaties, we find our selves bound in no wise to part from our Allies, and Confederates; and standing fast in this Resolution, we must represent this only to your Holiness, That the only means to obtain Peace, is to continue the War; and that *Italy* may be freed and brought to its former tranquility, the League must be compleated, and by the Care of your Holiness, procured with all the Princes, and Christendom at last secured against the Violences of its Common Enemy, and the Emperor afforded the help that your *Predecessour* of pious Memory, accorded him: We hope for this from the great Justice of your Holiness, and that you will hereunto give your assent, upon the knowledge of Truth, and the strength of our Arguments, and pour out upon us your Holy Blessing. Our Lord keep, *&c.*

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